GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:68
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
PESTICIDES CAUSING REPRODUCTIVE DISORDERS AND CANCER
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether increased use of pesticides for extra yield is responsible for reproductive disorders and cancer;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to undertake a survey of pesticides in fruits and vegetables ;

(c) if so, the details of the proposed survey ; and

(d) the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted and the report submitted?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) : As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there are several scientific reports based on studies carried out in India and in other parts of the world indicating that exposure to certain persistent chemicals through air, water, and food can lead to reproductive hazards. Also, many case control studies conducted have shown distinct association between breast adipose tissue concentrations of several organochlorine xenoestrogens and breast cancer risk.

(b) to (d) : According to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, a central sector scheme ` Monitoring of Pesticide Residue at National Level` has been initiated and the survey is likely to be started by January, 2006 and would be a continuous ongoing process.